Introduction: The following paragraphs are identical to those in the December 2019 FCTA Bulletin. They are re-published here so the sources of information can be cited.

Circumventing the 2nd Amendment

Incoming Majority Leader in the Senate, Richard Saslaw has already pre-filed bill SB-161 and three other gun bills. S-16 expands the definition of so-called “assault weapons” and bans, as a felony, the possession, sale or transport of assault-style weapons and larger ammunition magazines, semi-automatic pistols with more than a ten-round magazine, or shotguns that hold more than seven cartridges - none of which would be grandfathered to protect present owners in the legislation. The bill would also prohibit the importation of specific parts.

Yet another gun bill, SB-64, as introduced, could be interpreted as making traditional firearm safety and shooting instruction - and even skilled self-defense training - illegal under the rubric of preventing "paramilitary" training.

Governor Northam is contemplating using the National Guard to confiscate guns and withholding funds from jurisdictions that refuse to enforce gun-control laws.2

Look for More Traffic Congestion

Fairfax Forward, the County’s plan for future development, calls for greater residential and commercial density, with almost no improvement in roadways. In fact, the county is converting many road lanes into bike lanes that will also be used for 10 mph scooters3. Bikes and scooters may use the center of the lane, decreasing the average speed from 35 mph to 10 mph. The few roadway improvements will be toll roads and toll lanes.

Your Safety in Greater Jeopardy

Fairfax County’s Sheriff Kinkaid, recently re-elected, will continue to release of more criminal aliens sought by ICE. In 2018, Kinkaid terminated the agreement with ICE.4 Notice to thieves: the new Commonwealth Attorney who won't prosecute property crimes under $1500 as felonies — only as misdemeanors. So control your greed and the law will go easy on you.5

More Middle-Income People Moving Out of Fairfax

IRS data shows that middle-income people have been moving out of Fairfax County. Middle-income people suffer the most when real-estate taxes increase. The population continues to increase somewhat because low-income people are moving in and people are having children. The county estimates that residential assessments will increase 2% this year and would need to increase the real estate tax rate another 3 pennies to pay for a 3.5%-to4.0% raise for school and county employees. Expect the Democrat-controlled board to raise real estate taxes at least 6% next year. The County is also considering increasing the real-estate tax rate by another 0.9%, ostensibly to have more money to subsidize affordable housing.6

Maldistribution of State Funds to the School Systems

Virginia distributes tax revenues to the schools in accordance with Local Contribution Index (the LCI). An LCI of 1.0 means that the local jurisdiction can afford to pay for the full cost of its education system. The LCI ranges across the state from 0.1692 to 0.8000. The average is 0.3978. Fairfax County has an LCI of 0.6541. The LCI is computed by formula based on the revenue sources, the school population, and the general population of the jurisdiction. It fails to distinguish between regular students and ESOL or Special-Education students. Fairfax County has large and generous programs for ESOL and Special Education. If the number of equivalent regular students was used in the LCI computation, Fairfax would get a larger share of the state funding. We see no proposed bills that would have the LCI based on the number of equivalent regular students. Notice that no school system can afford to pay all of the

3 https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicaffairs/e-scooter-regulations-approved-fairfax-county
4 https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/sheriff/sheriff-terminates-intergovernmental-service-agreement-ice
costs – the maximum LCI is 0.8; therefore, while paying only approximately 2% of the education bill, the state can control in every district the content of what is being taught.

**Bureaucrats Playing Doctor**

The Virginia Board of Medicine, consisting of unelected state regulators, is moving forward with their sweeping proposal to ban “conversion therapy” with a vague and broadly worded “Guidance Document.” They intend to ban any counseling or therapy that “seeks to change an individual’s sexual orientation or gender identity, including efforts to change behaviors or gender expressions or to... reduce sexual or romantic attractions or feelings toward individuals of any gender.” Such a regulatory ban would infringe the fundamental right of parents to care for their children and violate freedom of speech and free exercise of religion. Moreover, the Board has proposed banning such counseling not only for minors but also for adults. We can expect more sexual confusion, especially among minors and more taxpayer funds to pay for the results of the social disorder.7

**Exploiting the Poor**

The Virginia government is considering allowing gambling companies to operate in the Commonwealth.8 One major objection is the competition with the Lottery that would result. The state should require all gambling institutions to show and publicize the estimated dollar value of the prizes per ticket — the prizes multiplied by the probability of winning. The Virginia Lottery does not require this of itself.

Because the poor frequently gamble, gambling takes money from the poor so the government has more to spend. Including the probable value of the lottery ticket would level the playing field for the poor. Only the wealthy have the time and knowledge required to evaluate a ticket.

**Fighting for Businesses**

The FCTA's Bill Peabody spearheads the FCTA's fight to make and keep the County business friendly. He writes:

The recent increases in Department of Defense spending may have many feeling smug about Virginia’s economy. But just remember, that during recovery years 2010 - 2017 Virginia and Fairfax lagged behind many states and counties. If the next administration reduces DOD spending, local and state economic growth may stall. To prevent this, FCTA supports these measures:

1. Protect Right to Work (RTW). Virginia politicos and businesspeople alike have supported RTW, but this is about to change. Democrat majorities in Richmond will try to kill this golden goose. Virginia has been the epicenter of RTW and the National Right to Work Legal Defense Foundation is headquartered right here in Fairfax County. The numbers prove our point: Private sector employment grew by twenty-seventy percent in RTW states between 2001 and 2016 vs. 15% in union states... an 80% difference!

2. BPOL TAX – This tax is levied before a business makes a profit9. Because it is unfair and regressive, most states have discontinued it. Candidate Terry McAuliffe offered to end it in his 2012 campaign, but he never made good on his promise. New companies and those companies considering moving need relief, not punishment. We want new fast-growing companies to move to Virginia.

3. Since the 1970's services performed that added up to $600 or less fell under the rule of “casual labor”. Adjusted for inflation that amount today would be over $2400. Raise the casual labor ceiling from the current amount of $600 to $2000. This benefits workers by raising their compensation and employers by eliminating bureaucratic red tape. The small companies, especially the self-employed, need hiring flexibility.

4. GREEN Energy- Virginia gets approximately 30% of its electricity from nuclear power10. By completing the existing complexes at Anna and Surrey we could almost double our nuclear output. Zero emissions are good while zero emissions and an electricity rate below 12 cents is great. The green new deal energy sources being offered by the recently elected candidates are now employed in some EU countries. Rates in Germany, Denmark, and Belgium are triple the USA rates. To attract business, you need low energy cost.

5. Sick leave can kill your business. Recently Maryland passed the Healthy Working Families Act. The Act requires businesses with at least 15 employees to offer paid sick and safe leave. Smaller businesses must provide unpaid sick and safe leave. It's heading our way. We'll work to head it off.

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7 https://wtkr.com/2019/04/05/state-health-officials-in-virginia-take-steps-to-ban-conversion-therapy/  
8 https://www.roanoke.com/virginia-lottery-raises-concern-over-aggressive-growth-of-unregulated-gaming/article_21c5cf2f2-5c52-5dcf-9443-1c30384f62d.html  
10 https://www.eia.gov/state/?sid=VA
Global Warming/Climate Change

Jim Bacon, in his publication Bacon’s Rebellion, reported on a recent survey of Virginians as conducted by MassInc. The survey leads to the conclusion that Virginians support the government’s Transportation and Climate Initiative Framework (TCI). The TCI calls for reduction in greenhouse gases by taxing “companies that sell and distribute gasoline and diesel fuel.” Most people do not know the pros and cons of the TCI; however, the survey shows all of the benefits that taxpayers would realize. It fails to estimate the impact of the taxes on the fuel distributors, including the increase in fuel prices to the taxpayer. The survey was designed to support the TCI by taking advantage of taxpayer ignorance. MassInc apparently is not as unbiased as it claims to be. The Virginia government is now poised to join the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), a cap-and-trade mechanism for reducing the carbon output of electric utilities, which will cost electric rate payers in Virginia multiple billions of dollars. Bacon and the FCTA try to combat such bias by publishing the facts, as Bacon did in exposing the illegitimacy of the survey.

An Attack is the Best Defense

In April 2016, an attorney for Hillary Clinton’s campaign and the DNC separately hired Fusion GPS to investigate Donald J. Trump, the Republican presidential nominee, to try to unearth damaging information about him. Fusion GPS compiled research memos written by Christopher Steele that alleged a multifaceted conspiracy between the Trump campaign and the Russian government to help Mr. Trump defeat Mrs. Clinton. The memos also detail unsubstantiated accounts of encounters between Mr. Trump and Russian prostitutes, and real-estate deals that were intended as bribes, among other claims about Mr. Trump’s businesses. Rather than attempt to defend the collusion between the Clinton campaign and the Russians, the Democrats and main-stream media claimed that Mr. Trump colluded with the Russians. The clamor of the Mueller Investigation of Mr. Trump completely drowned out the outrage that should have resulted from the Clinton-Russian collusion. The attack was more effective than a defense of the Clinton campaign.

The then Vice-President Joe Biden was found colluding with the Ukrainian government to end an investigation of Hunter Biden and his suspiciously lucrative position with Burisma, a Ukrainian gas company. This action was subverted by the Democrats and the main-stream media with the accusation that President Trump colluded with the Ukrainian government in a quid-pro-quo arrangement: Trump threatening to withhold military aid if the Ukrainian government did not investigate the Bidens.

At the state level, a similar strategy was used by Governor Northam. He stated his approval of infanticide, causing justifiable outrage by the electorate. The outrage was short-lived, drowned out by the discovery of his use of blackface in his college days. Blackface could be offset by donations supporting black causes; infanticide had no possibility of being offset.

A similar strategy is being used by current presidential candidate Pete Buttigieg. His preemptive strike claims that being pro-life is being against science. The truth is that being pro-abortion is being against science. DNA science proves that human life clearly begins at conception. Abortion kills a human being. Buttigieg does not affirm this science. By claiming pro-life is anti-science, he has fired the first shot and hopes there is no return fire. “No, you are” seems weak. Of course, Buttigieg says he has a husband. He is clearly confused about science.

We must beware of these strategies: attack rather than defend.

16 https://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2019/02/05/ralph-northam-advocating-abortion-infanticide-worse-than-blackface-column/2776498002/
**Taxing Convenience – The Bag Tax**

Have fun at your upcoming grocery-store checkout – especially at self-checkout. The Virginia government wants you to pay five cents for each flimsy plastic bag you use\(^{19}\). The checker or you at self-checkout must keep track of how many bags you use and which are exempt from the tax (e.g., those used for wine or fish). The store gets one cent and the government gets four cents. You get the expense and the inconvenience. The emotional appeal is that plastic bags are bad for the environment; however, science shows that they are better for the environment than paper bags\(^{20}\). Oh well, but plastic bags fly into streams and onto trees. Nobody has traced the sources of flying bags, but some at least come from the back of pickup trucks on their trip to the dump. Requiring that these trucks be covered, however, will not increase state revenue.

**Which: Broken Promises or More Taxes**

As Don Rippert has explained\(^{21}\), many of the winning Democratic candidates promised deeper and broader social benefits from the state; namely, expanded Medicaid, more money for K-12, more money for higher education, more money for green initiatives, etc. Few of the winning Democratic candidates spent any time describing just how these expanded social benefits would be financed. Politics as usual. Regardless of their expressed political philosophy, the vast majority of Virginians do not want to pay higher taxes.

Democrats gambled that their “hate Trump” campaign, including the impeachment hearings, would be enough to win the Virginia legislature. It seems to have been, especially among the young and the older women. These same two groups might not be so happy with higher taxes — or broken promises.

**Lower Life Expectancy**

Life expectancy has been decreasing over the past few years. The decreases were largely attributable to increases in mortality in midlife\(^{22}\) (ages 25 to 64). Major causes included increases in fatal drug overdoses, alcoholic liver disease, suicide, and hypertensive disease. If you want to live long, you now know what to avoid.

**Crime**

In general, crime rates are down in Fairfax County – substantially; however, crimes related to pornography, prostitution, and drugs are up. Suicides, especially among children, are also up. More young children die from suicides than from mass shootings or community violence.\(^{23}\) The School Board’s FLE program is complicit in the suicides and crimes. It destroys the natural innocence and modesty of children because of its graphic and casual treatment of sexual stimulation. To decrease suicides and these crimes, children need to trust God in good times and in bad. Such trust can be engendered by stable families, including stable extended families, that have high moral values and standards. They also need an FLE program that teaches them how to have good, stable families, linking sex and love.

**Virginia’s Budget Problems**

Aubrey Layne, Virginia’s Secretary of Finance, has worries about the budget: Medicaid growth is at the top of his list, followed by the mandatory recalculation of the state’s contribution to local schools\(^{24}\). He listed transportation funding as a potential budget problem, along with the growing concerns that the Virginia Retirement System will not meet its investment projections and will need additional state infusions (i.e., taxes).

The state lottery is now creating worry, with reports that an explosion of unlicensed and untaxed gaming machines is deeply cutting into the state’s monopoly on exploiting the wishful. State legislators likely will shut that competition down or shake down that industry for a cut, but not before next year.

Are you amazed that these worries come when the state will have a $1.6B surplus this year? Even the paltry rebate that taxpayers received in 2019 will be missing in 2020. There will be no surplus.

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20 http://www.allaboutbags.ca/papervplastic.html
21 https://www.baconsrebellion.com/wp/virginia-tax-increases-outlook-for-2020/#more-54223
**Mountain Valley Pipeline**

The Mountain Valley Pipeline is a joint venture project of Mountain Valley LLC partners and Equitrans LP, to construct a 304-mile 42-inch natural gas pipeline. An additional 8 miles will help to connect new and existing pipelines throughout the region.

The MVP project extends from southern Virginia to northwestern West Virginia retrieving its natural gas supply from the Marcellus and Utica shale sites to expectedly provide two billion cubic feet of firm capacity per day that can be used in commercial buildings in the Mid to the South Atlantic areas of the United States. The pipeline is regulated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission because it is an interstate obligation.

The MVP website suggests the project has the potential to bring in state and local tax revenue along with jobs and economic growth to Virginia and West Virginia, a region where the impacts from a decline in the coal industry has caused a ripple effect that spans across the entire coal industry ecosystem. And if coal resources are not to be tapped, clearly expansion of Marcellus natural gas is the prudent alternative, since equivalent capacity from wind and solar is not practical and, even if implemented, would leave a horrible environmental footprint.

The Appalachian Trail Conservancy is the principal force opposing this pipeline. This organization has worked with Mountain Valley Pipeline officials in an effort to minimize mainly the environmental impacts along the Appalachian Trail, but ultimately remain staunchly opposed to this pipeline.25

A more convincing opposition argument is espoused by the Virginia Mercury, which claims that: “While MVP is not the first pipeline to cross unstable terrain, nor the first pipeline to be located in landslide-prone Appalachia, MVP has the notoriety of crossing more miles of high-risk terrain (74% of its total length) than any other major natural gas transmission pipeline in the past two decades.”26

The pipeline's developers claim the work is 90% complete, but the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) in October halted construction of the 303-mile, interstate pipeline in October, pending the outcome of a series of court challenges launched by environmental groups. Pipeline work in any event was due to be suspended during the winter months to prevent environmental damage.27

Now given that the so-called environmental groups detest any form of fossil fuel, and given that their allies in the Democrat Party have taken over the Virginia legislature, completion of MVP will depend on the outcome from court rulings, and authorization by FERC. Any encouragement from Virginia will have to wait a change in leadership.

**School Busing and Racial Quotas**

The Democrats divide the country into many groups: Asian, Pacific Islander, Black, Afro-American, Hispanic, White, Lesbian, Gay, Highest 1%, etc. They then cater to each group’s self-interest. They have made the U.S. a tribal nation, rather than the traditional melting pot – despite the much greater frequency of intermarriage. We have already seen evidence of tribal warfare in the hate-filled, street demonstrations.

Fairfax County’s One Fairfax program seeks to mix the tribes, not dissolving the tribal boundaries, not integrating them, just making them sit side-by-side. The School Board postponed until after the elections the redrawing of school boundaries. They did not want the redrawing to upset the voters. We are now stuck with the new School Board for four years. They will redraw the boundaries, even if more busing is required. Only when all high schools average the same in the SAT will the program be deemed successful. The School Board hypothesizes that putting poorly performing students with highly performing students will result in better performance by the currently poorly performing students. The School Board never mentions why some schools perform poorly. They do say that highly performing schools perform well because the wealthy parents hire tutors. They have never taken a survey to determine if that statement is true. They never mention home life or IQ as factors. But the Board wants to be able to claim it is doing something to narrow the racial gap between SAT scores – no matter the inconvenience to the parents and the greater cost to the taxpayer.

25 [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mountain_Valley_Pipeline](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mountain_Valley_Pipeline)
Should Marijuana Be Legalized in Virginia?

Colorado’s Division of Criminal Justice reports that court filings regarding organized crime’s involvement in marijuana increased from 31 in 2012 to 119 in 2017\(^{28}\). Legalization was supposed to reduce organized crime’s presence.

At New York’s Mid-Hudson Forensic Psychiatric Institute, home of 300 criminally mentally ill defendants judged not guilty by reason of insanity, every inmate smoked marijuana\(^{29}\). Studies show that:
- marijuana, like alcohol, is too weak to be a painkiller;
- the medical uses of marijuana are very narrow;
- teenagers who smoke marijuana heavily are three times as likely to develop schizophrenia;
- marijuana use is associated with increased opiate use;
- psychotics who use marijuana have a 50% chance of violence;
- marijuana is associated with a high rate of infant death due to neglect and abuse;
- marijuana is associated with increased violence by non-psychotics; and
- increased marijuana use is associated with increased murders.

Reporting of violent crimes does not include the offender’s drug use, but we do know that some gruesome murders were associated with marijuana but none of which were reported as associated with marijuana. Perpetrators of crime should be tested for drug use, to provide data on the role of drugs, including marijuana, in crimes.

So the data indicates the marijuana should not be legalized. Its use should be penalized. Possession, distribution, and cultivation of small quantities could be misdemeanors, expunged automatically after five years. Those who cultivate and distribute large quantities of marijuana should be charged with felonies.

Infanticide

Governor Ralph Northam has restated his legislative agenda, which includes removing third-trimester abortion restrictions, including infanticide, expanding Medicaid, increasing gun control, and raising the minimum wage\(^{30}\). The Democrat majority intends to move ever further left. Abortion and Second Amendment issues being lined up for early legislative attention.

The rush to kill babies in the third trimester right up to birth and shortly thereafter will be on the legislative fast track again, following up on the early 2019 "Tran" bill that laid down the marker for the radicals. The only question is, will this new group of extremists publicly push for post-birth infanticide or simply allow the regulations to turn a blind eye when the killing of live birth babies inevitably happens? Will our tax dollars be used by the government to fund these abortions and the accompanying infanticide? Do we want to be complicit in infanticide?

Beware you older folks. If killing a human being — a baby — is permitted for convenience or costs, will you be next? Many are already advocating euthanasia. In some countries\(^{31}\), euthanasia was introduced for patients who requested it for themselves. Gradually, relatives could ask. Now it is applied without the permission of the person to be killed or of relatives. It is totally the doctor’s choice.

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\(^{29}\) [https://imprimis.hillsdale.edu/marijuana-mental-illness-violence/](https://imprimis.hillsdale.edu/marijuana-mental-illness-violence/)


\(^{31}\) [https://bioethics.georgetown.edu/2017/08/review-of-countries-where-euthanasia-has-been-legalised-increasing-of-involuntary-euthanasia-without-consent-by-patients/](https://bioethics.georgetown.edu/2017/08/review-of-countries-where-euthanasia-has-been-legalised-increasing-of-involuntary-euthanasia-without-consent-by-patients/)